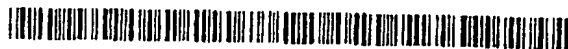


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(54) Title: THERAPEUTIC METHOD

(57) Abstract: The present invention relates generally to a method of modulating an inflammatory response in a mammal and to agents useful for same. More particularly, the present invention relates to a method of modulating an inflammatory response in a mammal by modulating the functional activity of activin and thereby modulating the pro-inflammatory mediator cascade. The method of the present invention is useful, *inter alia*, in the treatment and/or prophylaxis of conditions characterised by an aberrant, unwanted or otherwise inappropriate inflammatory response including, *inter alia*, sepsis and inflammation of the airway. The present invention is further directed to methods for identifying and/or designing agents capable of modulating activin mediated regulation of the inflammatory response.